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NBC BRIEFING

28 April 1959

TIBET

- I. Chinese Communist engaged in all-out effort to mop up rebels and are trying to seal the Southern border.

B. Rebels are continuing to hinder Communist ground transport.

C. In Lhasa, many Tibetans have been killed; young men were rounded up and sent away presumably to be put in forced labor gangs, but the city is now absolutely quiet

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D. Nehru admits "some thousands" of Tibetan refugees have crossed into northeastern India, and Indian political agent in Sikkim puts figure at about 5,000 to 6,000.

- II. Chinese Communists officially still keep door open on slim possibility of Dalai Lama's return.

A. Peiping People's Daily on 26 April said Nehru's admission that Dalai Lama wrote three letters to Chinese representative "automatically confirms" he is "held under duress."

B. Same paper on 27 April hinted New Delhi should help Dalai Lama return to Tibet.

- III. Peiping at same time taking harder line toward India, accusing Indian foreign ministry official of acting as "outright spokesman" for rebels now in India.

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A. This charge and violent attacks against "Indian expansionists" intended as pressure on Nehru to curtail Dalai Lama's activities and statements.

IV. Nehru obviously irritated that his efforts keep situation cool being met by Peiping pressure tactics.

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V. Nehru apparently desires retain fragments of Sino-Indian friendship to uphold neutral policy and keep world peace.

A. Continued baiting by Peiping, however, may turn him personally against China and weaken public friendship facade.

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